



Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force

**House Committee on Human Services
Testimony in Support of HB2830
February 8, 2021**

Chair Anna Williams, Vice Chairs Leif and Ruiz, and members of the Committee,

HB2830 is a legislative priority for the Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force.

The Sexual Assault Task Force is a private, non-profit, non-governmental statewide agency with over 100 multi-disciplinary members appointed by the Attorney General. Members serve as advisors on 1 of 8 subcommittees including: Advocacy Response, Campus, Criminal Justice, Legislative & Public Policy, Medical-Forensic, Men's Engagement, Offender Management, and Prevention & Education. Our membership informs the work of our programs which include providing Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) to advocates, campus practitioners, law enforcement, preventionists, prosecutors, SANE's and other multi-disciplinary responders.

Our mission is to advance a multi-disciplinary, survivor-centered approach to the prevention of and response to sexual violence in Oregon. Our goal is to prevent sexual violence from happening in the first place, while simultaneously improving our response efforts to mitigate trauma and ensure the safety and security of all victims.

Oregon Child Abuse Prevalence Study

We are missing clear data on the number of people who experience violence, abuse, and neglect as young people in Oregon. The *Oregon Child Abuse Prevalence Study*, otherwise known as OCAPS, is a scientifically sound and piloted measurement strategy from the University of Oregon's *Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect*. OCAPS will more accurately determine rates of child abuse and neglect in Oregon by directly surveying a randomized sample of youth 16 and over in schools across the state.

OCAPS will allow us to capture vital information, producing a baseline from which we can have a better understanding of the breadth of experiences that youth are having in the various aspects of their lives – not just at school. OCAPS will assist us in knowing what funding programs work and where to put the dollars based on where the biggest problems lie. OCAPS compliments awareness and intervention efforts by moving us toward primary prevention of abuse.

The Oregon Child Abuse Prevalence Survey (OCAPS) is the ideal companion to the Oregon Student Health Survey (formerly the Oregon Healthy Teen Survey), which collects climate survey data on the experiences of youth as students, while OCAPS will help us to better

demonstrate prevalence of abuse and youth experiences in all aspects of the life. Combined, the Healthy Teen and OCAPS surveys will allow Oregon to more fully grasp the scope and impact of abuse, neglect, and violence in our communities, pointing us in the appropriate direction for solutions.

We are grateful to the University of Oregon and the Center for the Prevention of Abuse and Neglect for their contribution to and reinforcement of primary prevention strategies to address abuse, neglect, and violence in our communities, and fully support their effort to expand their strategies statewide.

Young people deserve an investment in a future without violence and abuse, which is why SATF is proud to support this bill and urge your support of HB2830.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MRS', written in a cursive style.

Michele Roland-Schwartz
Executive Director
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